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Sir:

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION under 37 CFR 1.53(c).

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TITLE OF THE INVENTION

SYSTEM AND METHOD OF CREATING, AGGREGATING, AND TRANSFERRING AGRICULTURALLY - SOURCED  
ENVIRONMENTAL EMISSION REDUCTION CREDITS

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ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply)

Specification      Number of Pages 17  
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METHOD OF PAYMENT

Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

A check in the amount of \$80.00 to cover the filing fee is enclosed.

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I hereby certify that this is being deposited with the United States Postal Service 'Express Mail Post Office to Addressee' service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Respectfully submitted,

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## FILING RECEIPT



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Date Mailed: 01/13/2003

Receipt is acknowledged of this provisional Patent Application. It will not be examined for patentability and will become abandoned not later than twelve months after its filing date. Be sure to provide the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION when inquiring about this application. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please write to the Office of Initial Patent Examination's Filing Receipt Corrections. facsimile number 703-746-9195. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections (if appropriate).

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\*\* SMALL ENTITY \*\*

## Title

System and method of creating, aggregating, and transferring agriculturally - sourced environmental emission reduction credits

LICENSE FOR FOREIGN FILING UNDER

**SYSTEM AND METHOD OF CREATING, AGGREGATING, AND TRANSFERRING  
AGRICULTURALLY - SOURCED ENVIRONMENTAL EMISSION REDUCTION CREDITS**

**Summary**

The present invention includes a System, comprised of business methods and processes, which may comprise the following:

- Collecting and assessing information about the agricultural production practices performed by individual farms, or systems (of farms), that can be further processed to create and quantify on-site environmental emission reductions, including greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions;
- Creating/quantifying on-site environmental emission reductions pursuant to algorithms that serve as the basis for protocols;
- Aggregating, and take title to, an arbitrarily large supply of environmental emission reductions that are created by processing the gathered information according to various algorithms/protocols;
- Registering on-site emission reductions, as required, to promote data "transparency" and to convert the on-site emission reductions to environmental emission reduction credits (ERCs) or "offsets" (for GHG ERCs, measured in tons CO<sub>2</sub>equivalent or tons CO<sub>2</sub>e or other useful units); by so doing, enabling the ready verification of parameters such as ERC provenance (source, creation methodology, certification standards, etc.), permanence, additionality, leakage, retirement, title/ownership, etc.;
- Working with outside providers to develop and provide associated risk mitigation instruments, bank loan tools, and other risk or financial tools/instruments that may be useful to enable the sale of ERCs.
- Selling – using direct and indirect channels - ERCs/offsets, derivative instruments, futures contracts and other data-derived products to individuals, businesses, or consortia that desire to purchase them.
- Providing Agriculture with a new revenue stream that results from the sale of agriculturally sourced ERCs.

This system makes it possible for Agriculture, by practicing specific methodologies and protocols, to create and deliver a large number of high quality, quantified and verified, cost-effective, renewable environmental (including GHG) emission reductions (and associated ERCS) that can be used to satisfy various global climate change requirements/legislation.

### Background

A scientific consensus is emerging that greenhouse gases (or "GHGs") – carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping emissions released by electric power plants, heavy industry, and transportation – are causing worldwide temperatures to rise, which is being linked to a wide range of environmental impacts including rising sea levels, reduced harvests and regional floods or droughts.

Policy makers face a seemingly insurmountable dilemma: continuing economic growth/recovery requires expanded energy production and economic output, which leads directly to increased GHG emissions levels – but environmentalists, led by global warming activists – are clamoring for definitive actions to reduce GHG emissions and for a greener environment.

Recent worldwide legislative responses, including the Bush Administration's Climate Change Initiative, the high-profile UNFCCC process of Rio, Kyoto, and The Hague (resulting in the Kyoto Accords), and a huge body of both national and sub-national GHG and climate change policy, haven't solved this quandary.

The problem is acute; solutions that mandate energy caps will lead to a head-on collision with industry and may have grave economic consequences; but the GHG "problem" is *big*. Existing legislation/accords contemplate worldwide reductions of roughly 2 billion tons (of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent) annually; furthermore, to stabilize the

atmosphere at scientifically recommended CO<sub>2</sub> levels will require worldwide reductions exceeding 10 billion tons per year.

*The New York Times* recently reported that a large German insurance company, German Re, has estimated that global warming could cost \$300 Billion annually by 2050 in weather damage, pollution, industrial and agricultural losses and other expenses. Moreover, some experts in corporate governance warn that companies – and their officers – could be held accountable for failing to protect their companies from climate-related risk, and the lawsuits could come from governments as well as investors and other aggrieved parties. *The New York Times* notes that Swiss Re, a large reinsurance company, is reviewing its insurance clients to determine whether they are managing climate change risk, and is considering excluding from coverage those companies or directors that are not addressing this issue.

GHG reductions can be achieved through costly abatement techniques (such as installing smokestack scrubbers or by making widespread capital upgrades), by enhancing or eliminating industrial operations that generate significant GHG emissions (future technology is likely to manifest more efficient operations), or by a variety of sequestration techniques that "fix" carbon from the atmosphere. Techniques which avoid the production of GHG emissions or that sequester carbon in a way that makes it unavailable to the atmosphere (either technique must be measurable and verifiable and compared to an established baseline), can be used to create GHG Emission Reduction Credits (ERCs).

Industry needs an effective, inexpensive, and reliable means to offset GHG emissions for the next 30 years or more, until emerging processes and new capital hardware "catch up" to the emissions problem. What is more, to be economically sustainable, the solution(s) will require that large buyers (such as utilities) have a ready, reliable, long-term access to a large aggregated supply of credits (Some regulations contemplate mechanisms for "banking" ERCs against future need. Large buyers, including electric

utilities and heavy industry, have ongoing year-to-year needs that can be met via banked ERCs or by establishing a reliable annual supply of ERCs.).

Yet "easily generated" industrial abatement and avoidance credits are nowhere near sufficient to supply the worldwide demand created by regulations/legislation. What's more, as British Petroleum has recently demonstrated, aggressive reductions are *expensive*. B.P. notes in their corporate website that their 2001 internal GHG emission reduction costs averaged \$39.63/ton CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.

Unfortunately, traditional GHG ERC sources – forestry, deep injection of CO<sub>2</sub> into oil shale or aquifers, and various green power technologies, for instance – produce only limited quantities of GHG emission reduction credits or (like abatement techniques) are unreasonably expensive. Moreover, historically, many of these credits have been unverified and are often "unverifiable." With regards to reforestation or afforestation, for example, assuming a one-third ton per acre carbon potential, the purchase of one 100,000-ton lot of carbon mitigation credits would require assembling, monitoring, and verifying performance across 300,000 acres or about 500 square miles. Monitoring a large forest landmass (to aggregate a reasonable quantity of emission reduction credits) often requires dealing with multiple landowners. Additionally, current thinking on the subject of "additionality" requires *new plantings* (rather than standing forests) to qualify for carbon emission reduction credits.

Agriculture, on the other hand, especially as practiced in North America, has the potential to become one of the largest and most concentrated sources of quantified high-quality, verifiable GHG emission reductions (and ERCs) worldwide. As is widely known, Agriculture is a relatively low-intensity GHG emitter - now responsible for some 7% of GHG emissions - and offers tremendous potential for both GHG emission avoidance and carbon sequestration. This potential comes about because of North America's unique combination of concentrated bio-mass (concentrated animal feeding operations), production practices, and large arable landmass that is available for

sequestration. By practicing specific protocols, North American Agriculture has the potential to annually generate up to several 100's of millions of tons of ERCs. What is more, practicing these protocols will naturally result in a high degree of compliance with existing Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act requirements (the converse is not true – simply meeting existing environmental legislation fails the test of "additionality" towards creating GHG ERCs).

Further complicating the process of creating, aggregating and transferring (selling) environmental emission reductions (and ERCs), however, no formal standards have been promulgated to specify these steps. Until the recent past, for instance, a putative purchaser of credits and a "qualified" supplier of credits worked together on an ad hoc basis, mutually defining the characteristics of a particular ERC supply contract. The ERCs were created to mutually determined (private) standards, were sometimes inspected/verified by 3<sup>rd</sup> party agencies, such as environmental engineers, environmentalists, or accounting firms, and were privately exchanged. These trades were executed on a project-by-project basis, and were often shrouded in secrecy – unless the buyer desired to publicize the event to garner positive Public Relations value. A number of forestation GHG ERC contracts, and intra-company (division to division) GHG ERC exchanges have been made in this manner.

Even early attempts to generate agriculturally sourced GHG ERCs fell under this rubric. For instance, C-Quest is known to have utilized privately derived protocols to "create" ERCs, titles to which were held by the individual production system, which were then sold to a Canadian electric utility company. C-Quest was only able to close one sale and deliver ERCs; difficulties with their system made it difficult (if not impossible) to consummate other transactions. C-Quest's system was also limited in scope – it was based upon only two protocols (of which only one was used; a specific methane avoidance protocol) - and made no allowance or consideration for other ERC creation mechanisms, such as other avoidance protocols, other sequestration techniques, afforestation, green power generation modalities, etc. Such factors have precluded

Agriculture from becoming a considered source for high quality GHG ERCs. As is true with many other "project based" vehicles, C-Quest's system lacked overarching quality assurance or verification provisions.

It is worth noting that the much-publicized Kyoto Protocol (Article 3) requires Annex B ("industrialized") countries to reduce GHG emissions (in the aggregate) by at least 5% *below* 1990 reference levels in the period 2008-2012. Moreover, the Protocol also establishes various "Flexibility Mechanisms" to allow Annex B countries to meet their reduction commitments, including: project based trades, emissions trading, and in-country actions that can result in the domestic supply of GHG credits.

The Kyoto Accords, then – like most regional and sub-national climate change legislation – establishes reference baselines, against which emissions levels can be specified. It does not, however, unambiguously specify how to qualify/quantify GHG ERCs, registration mechanisms and standards, etc.

Moreover, the language specifying trades between signatory and non-signatory countries is ambiguous. While GHG ERCs may be created and verified using the exact same methodologies in two different countries, it is possible that they will not be treated equally with respect to satisfying Kyoto requirements or for their perceived commercial "value."

C-Quest's effort underscores that a "system" has to deal with a wide range of elements to be successful. The issues are complex. Individual agricultural production operations, for instance, have limited GHG ERC creation/generation capacity; typically, individual sites produce too small a quantity to be economically useful to large purchasers of ERCs. In addition, entities who "need" large quantities of GHG ERCs have to be concerned with a number of issues pertaining to aggregating a substantial quantity of ERCs, such as: contracts and pricing standardization, title/ownership conveyance issues, quality assurance issues (statistical error bounding, data permanency and

verification, etc.), additionality, leakage, ERC registration and retirement, risk mitigation, and more. While dealing with an agricultural "system" (comprised of many individual producers) enables aggregating a larger number of emission reductions (and associated ERCs), it does not inherently solve these other problems. Historically, large purchasers of ERCs have been unwilling to assume the overhead associated with addressing all these issues, one reason Agriculture has been little used to generate GHG ERCs.

1

In the past, systems for creating/supplying ERCs have also typically lacked adequate quality assurance provisions. For instance, even for those trades that impose some level of quality control – such as site audits or data verification – no means has been used (beyond the integrity/certification of the company or individual auditor, that is) to actually prove that a site audit took place. In many instances records are paper based, and in remaining instances electronic records include no provisions for time/location "stamping" to confirm when/where an audit took place.

2

In view of the foregoing background, the present invention enables Agriculture to become a significant and regarded source of high quality, cost effective, verifiable, renewable environmental emission reductions (and associated emission reduction credits (ERCs)) that can be used to offset climate change emission reduction commitments (including voluntary commitments), regulations, and legislation. While the invention will have particular value in North America, it can fulfill the same/similar function in other locations around the world.

3

In addition, the present invention provides an integrated, holistic system – known as the AgCert™ System - that enables the creation, aggregation, registration, storage, sale, and retirement of all agriculturally-sourced GHG emission reductions (and associated ERCs) – whether derived from GHG avoidance techniques, carbon sequestration, green power generation, or other sources.

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Moreover, embodiments of the invention establish business methods and practices that include defining a reference standard against which all non-agricultural sources of environmental emission reduction sources can be measured.

} 1

Further, the present invention may utilize Government certified algorithms, protocols, and methodologies as the basis for creating/generating ERCs via the AgCert™ System.

} 2

Further, the present invention may establish that GHG ERCs created using the AgCert™ System will satisfy the Marrakesh Accords for Joint Implementation.

} 3

Further, the present invention may establish and satisfy applicable equivalency mechanisms so that ERCs created/generated via the AgCert™ System in one location are recognized to be exactly equivalent to ERCs created/generated via the AgCert™ System in another location – even if one of these locations is a Kyoto signatory country and another location is not.

} 4

Embodiments of the present invention, herein described by way of example, develop and establish by way of an existing research and development effort and may include:

- Methods and other technology needed to standardize and certify the qualitative and quantitative value and volume of Greenhouse Gas (such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide) and/or equivalent compounds avoided or sequestered in the process of agricultural production;
- Scientifically based algorithms and/or protocols that can be implemented to standardize and provide standard(s) of certification for the qualitative and quantitative value and volume of GHG and/or equivalent compounds avoided or sequestered in the process of agricultural production; and
- The procedures and guidelines defining the development of Whole Farm Agricultural Environmental Management Compliance Plans, utilizing government-

} 5

developed methods and technology. This Plan will contemplate the quantification and "capture" of emission reductions from all applicable Agricultural sources, including but not limited to:

*Covers each  
of:  
Abatement,  
Avoidance,  
And  
Sequestration*

- o GHG emission avoidance techniques;
- o Carbon sequestration techniques;
- o Nutrient management;
- o Tillage practices;
- o Wind breaks;
- o Riparian buffer strips;
- o Tree farming and afforestation;
- o Grasslands management;
- o Wetlands management;
- o Silvopasture;
- o Agroforestry;
- o Bio-digesters and/or "green" power generation; and
- o Cropping and soil data, including crops under Government cultivation.

1

Another embodiment may, by way of example, develop the present invention through an existing research and development effort to devise agricultural performance baselines for environmental emissions and emission reductions that can be used to establish an incentive-based cap and trade (emissions offset) program.

2

Yet another embodiment enables AgCert to aggregate an arbitrarily large quantity of on-site GHG emission reductions (and associated ERCs) that are created/generated via the AgCert™ System, and to hold original title/ownership to these emission reductions/ERCs to:

3

- Enable large purchasers of ERCs to enjoy the benefits of:
  - o "One stop shopping" – that is, making it possible for purchasers to reliably and readily acquire as many credits as they need/desire;
  - o Multi-year credit acquisitions – using either "banked" credits or renewably created credits;

- o Standardized pricing and contracts structures (that come about as a result of purchasing all the credits they need from a single supplier);
- o Option or sell-forward contracts and/or financial derivative instruments
- Reduce the statistical errors associated with quantifying small quantities of on-site GHG emission reductions; and
- Enable the development of risk mitigation mechanisms, including insurance policies;

all of which require a large aggregated supply of on-farm GHG emission reductions (and associated ERCs) created via the AgCert™ System.

Yet another embodiment establishes means to devise various closed loop systems, including:

- Enabling producers to apply emission reductions (and associated ERCs), created by one or more production practices in their system, to offset point source emitters within their system(s);
- By way of similar example, linking one or more agricultural systems, each comprised of at least one farm, to specific local operations, including industrial and manufacturing operations; in this way making it possible to apply emissions reductions (and associated ERCs) created by the actions of the one or more agricultural producers to offset point source emissions associated with the linked operation. As an example, such linkage may be by way of formal or informal internal supply agreements. Examples of such an internal supply system include utilizing agricultural emission reductions to offset point source emissions from an ethanol plant, a plant producing either sucrose or fructose, or from industrial plants producing tractors or trucks.
- Creating "emission neutral" or "emission superior" products, whether branded or not, wherein the environmental emissions associated with the item's production, manufacture, or use is offset (or more than offset, in the case of "emission superior" products) by corresponding emission reductions (and associated

ERCs) created by the production practices of contractually linked agricultural producers. Examples include:

- o "Emissions neutral" airline tickets;
- o "Emissions neutral" heavy industrial items, such as cars, trucks, or tractors;
- o "Emissions neutral" electricity;
- o "Emissions neutral" food
- In yet another embodiment of the invention, means provide for consumers to "pay" to offset the environmental emissions associated with an item's production, manufacture, or use of by paying for associated emission reductions, even when such linkage has not been established a priori by the manufacturer or provider of the service/product(s).
- Yet another embodiment, by way of example, establishes a "fund" or investment vehicle enabling consumers or companies to contract for the creation of an arbitrarily large aggregated pool of agricultural emission reductions (and associated ERCs), and to apply them – or sell them - to offset various point source emitters.
- Supplying an agricultural producer's power needs, partly or wholly, by linking on-site (or within system) "green energy" or "alternative energy" generation with energy usage. By way of this example, to capture all eligible credits, including emission reductions and associated ERCs, associated with an internal power generation system. Exemplar power systems include wind turbines, solar power, and methane generation/use.

1

Yet another embodiment of the present invention establishes an overarching quality assurance program/approach and philosophy that wraps around the entire AgCert™ System, to ensure objectivity, consistent data quality, and consistent operational methodologies. To this end, the AgCert™ System may:

- Establish both internal and external QA programs based upon applicable national and international standards, including ANSI and/or ISO standards;

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- Utilize 3<sup>rd</sup> party assessors and auditors to perform on-site assessments/audits to assess/analyze on-farm production practices; and
- Establish mandatory training/retraining/certification programs for AgCert's (internal and 3<sup>rd</sup> party) assessors and auditors to establish:
  - Minimum professional competency standards;
  - Familiarity with most current protocols and inspection methodologies;
  - Familiarity with all prerequisite data gathering/certification tools/equipment;
  - Consistent reporting and documentation standards

Further, the present invention establishes means to develop additional assessment and audit techniques to evaluate and quantify environmental emissions performance, including baselines, which arise from new technologies, agricultural production practices, or State, Federal, or local legislation. By way of further example, the present invention contemplates incorporating such new baselines, practices, services and/or techniques into Whole Farm Agricultural Environmental Management Compliance Plans.

Embodiments of the present invention establish means for registering quantified agricultural emission reductions, including GHG emission reductions, with existing or future Registries (that deal with environmental emission reductions) in a manner consistent with:

- Existing Registry data/tracking requirements (U.S. Department of Energy's 1605B requirements, for instance);
- Establishing the provenance, title/ownership, permanence, additionality, leakage, and retirement of the quantified emission reductions;
- Establishing data transparency with respect to ERC creation methodologies, source, aging, etc.

Yet other embodiments of the present invention establish means for selling data-derived products, including emission reductions, ERCs, and other products, domestically and around the world.

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Yet another embodiment of the invention establish means for paying farmers to comply with specific protocols whose practice(s) enable(s) the creation and quantification of emission reductions (and associated ERCs), thereby creating for Agriculture a new form of revenue.

2

#### Description of the Drawings

A preferred embodiment of the invention is described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

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FIG. 1 is a functional block diagram of an exemplary system – known as the AgCert™ System – depicting required and optional elements of the Invention, including inputs, outputs, data-flows, feedback loops, and activities. This exemplary system includes specific elements which have never before been included in a business system dedicated to creating and selling environmental emission reductions or GHG ERCs, including: U.S. Government certified algorithms and protocols, an overarching quality assurance system including a rigorous 3<sup>rd</sup> party assessment/audit process, a consideration of applicable environmental legislation that may affect an agricultural system's GHG emission reduction baseline, and an optional feedback loop providing services/feedback to an agricultural system to enable more complete system-wide compliance with specific standards, protocols, and methodologies. In this exemplary embodiment, AgCert owns title to the quantified on-site emission reductions (and the resultant ERCs), even when aggregated from an agricultural system comprised of multiple operating units. An optional trading platform, such as the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, is shown in relation to the AgCert™ System to exemplify where such a platform would interact with the AgCert™ System. Quantified emission reductions may

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be sold directly ("project transactions") to buyers or may first be registered in one or more Registries.

1

FIG. 2 is a flow chart of an exemplary method for performing on-site assessments and data collection, management, and analysis. It depicts a methodology for interacting with agricultural systems, which are comprised of one or multiple farms/locations, to establish system-wide GHG on-farm emission reduction baselines and system-wide GHG on-farm emission reduction creation/generation capacity. This exemplary method includes scheduling, on-site visits and data collection, data analysis, and reporting.

2

FIG. 3 is a more detailed flow chart of an exemplary subroutine used in the method of FIG. 2 for collecting data and performing regular system audits. In addition to the methodologies depicted in FIG. 2, this flow chart depicts quality assurance tests, including tolerance checks, to test/qualify the GHG on-farm emission reductions quantification process. Out of tolerance conditions result in notification of the agricultural system and may also result in subsequent (repeat) audit(s).

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#### Brief Description of Preferred Embodiments

The present invention will now be described more fully with reference to the accompanying drawings in which preferred embodiments of the invention are shown and described. It is to be understood that the invention may be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the illustrated embodiments set forth herein. Rather, these embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete, and will convey the scope of the invention to those skilled in the art.

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In one embodiment, the AgCert™ System, as depicted in Figures 1 through 3, utilizes a variety of electronic devices, including but not limited to: PDAs, electronic tablets, digital cameras, digital voice recorders, communications modules (such as modems and

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wireless communications technologies), Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment/modules, electronic "diagnostic" equipment (such as pH meters, or equipment including "electronic tongues" or "electronic noses" that can automatically detect and/or quantify the presence of one or more specific substances in either air, water, or soil), or a device/system that combines one or more of these functions into a single functional assembly, to capture/record and/or communicate on-site assessment/audit information. This feature of the invention distinguishes over the existing art by:

- Eliminating the use of paper based records with the associated data conversion errors associated with converting these records to electronic form;
- Eliminating the use of paper based records with the associated benefit of safeguarding data permanence;
- Providing the possibility, when GPS technology is used, of providing real-time location/time "stamping" as part of the electronic data record, to provide concrete verification of the time/location and by inference (when combined with other data inputs, such as assessment answers, voice, or electronic handwriting notes), the actual assessment/audit activities/actions of the auditor.

The AgCert™ System, as depicted in Figures 1 through 3 by way of example, may use electronic "PC like" devices, such as PDAs, electronic tablets, or laptop PCs, with other functional assemblies/modules, in conjunction with an open and dynamic database architecture and templating methodology, to create interactive questionnaires to enable on-site assessments or audits. It is a feature of this system that it enables assessors/auditors to create new types of data records/fields (not already contemplated by existing templates) on a real-time basis and for such data records to be incorporated into future templates. These data records/fields include structured questions/answers and other types of records or associated tags such as handwritten tablet notes, digitized voice records, and digital imagery. It is optionally a feature of this system that it enables assessors/auditors to record data that is contextually linked to other pre-assessment or

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pre-audit (ingressed) data, such as USGS, BLM, or CGIAR soil maps, topo maps, cropping maps, nutrient application maps, overhead imagery, etc.

1

The AgCert™ System, as depicted in Figures 1 through 3 by way of example, may be used to document agricultural system compliance with applicable regulatory and/or commercial standards of performance, and to confer a "regulatory shield" to those systems/operations/farms that meet or exceed established performance requirements.

2

Further, the AgCert™ System, as depicted in Figures 1 through 3 by way of example, may be used to qualify agricultural systems/operations/farms for cost share assistance for a range of actions/services, including:

3

- On-site assessments and audits;
- Environmental management services/practices;
- GHG management services/practices.

In yet another embodiment, the AgCert™ System, as depicted in Figures 1 through 3 by way of example, may be used to create, aggregate, register, store, sell, and retire other forms of agriculturally-sourced environmental emission reductions (and associated ERCSs).

4

It is to be understood that even though numerous characteristics and advantages of the present invention have been set forth, many modifications and other embodiments of the invention will come to the mind of one skilled in the art now having the benefit of the teachings presented in the foregoing descriptions and associated drawings. Therefore, the invention is not to be limited to the specific embodiments disclosed, and modifications and embodiments are intended to be included within the scope of claims supported by this disclosure.

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Comments regarding FIG 1A & FIG 1B, which follow:

These two figures should be overlaid to create a single large drawing. Certain elements are common to both FIG 1A and FIG 1B with unique elements to either side.

Anywhere this document refers to FIG 1, by reference it refers to the *composite* of both FIG 1A and FIG 1B.

The bracket at the bottom of FIG 1A and FIG 1B is meant to encompass the entire AgCert™ System.

VU GRAPH PRESENTATION

The following descriptive material is supported by the above disclosure and is herein presented to more fully describe embodiments of this invention.

FIG. 1A

QA PGM (Ex ISO)

 AgCert

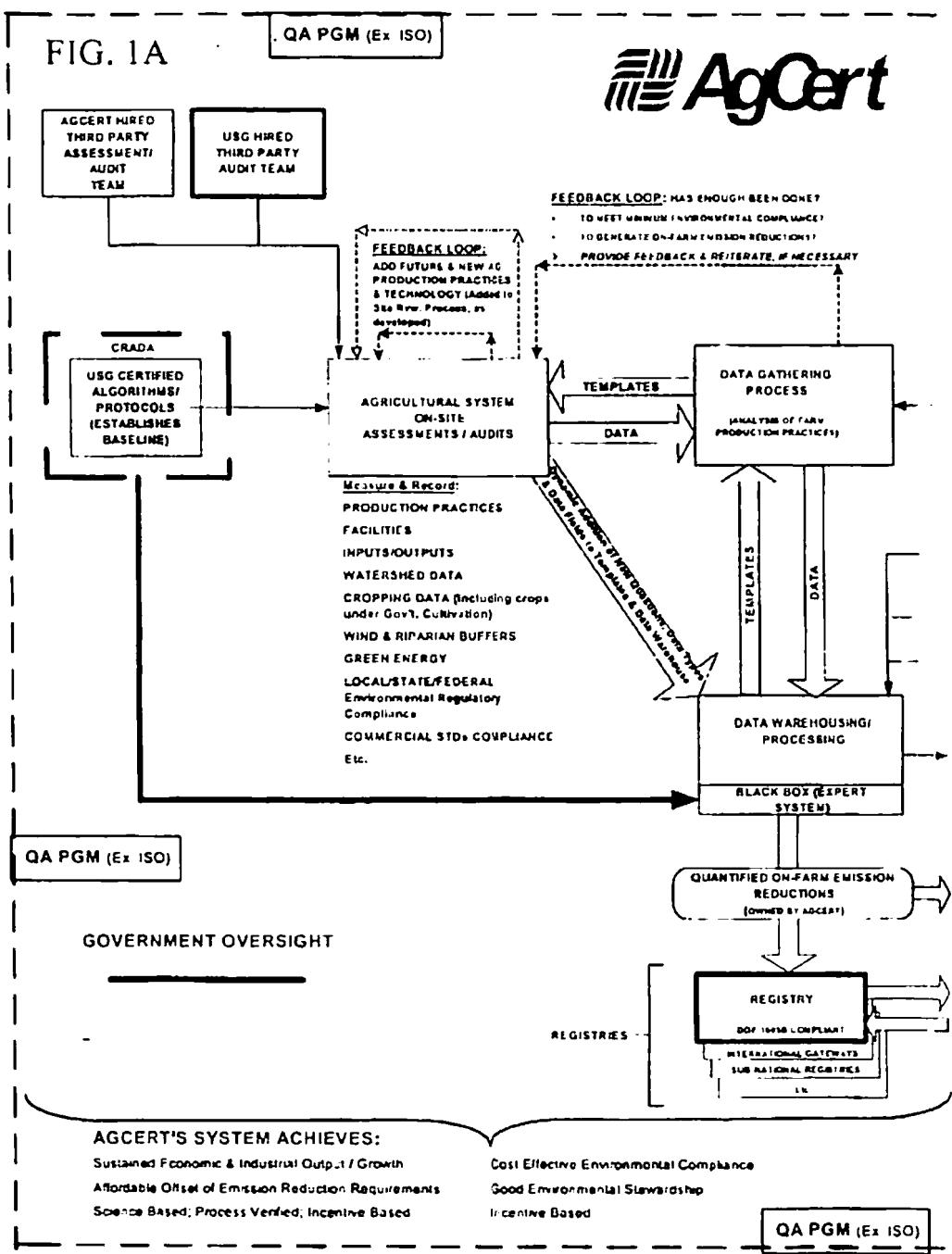


FIG. 1B

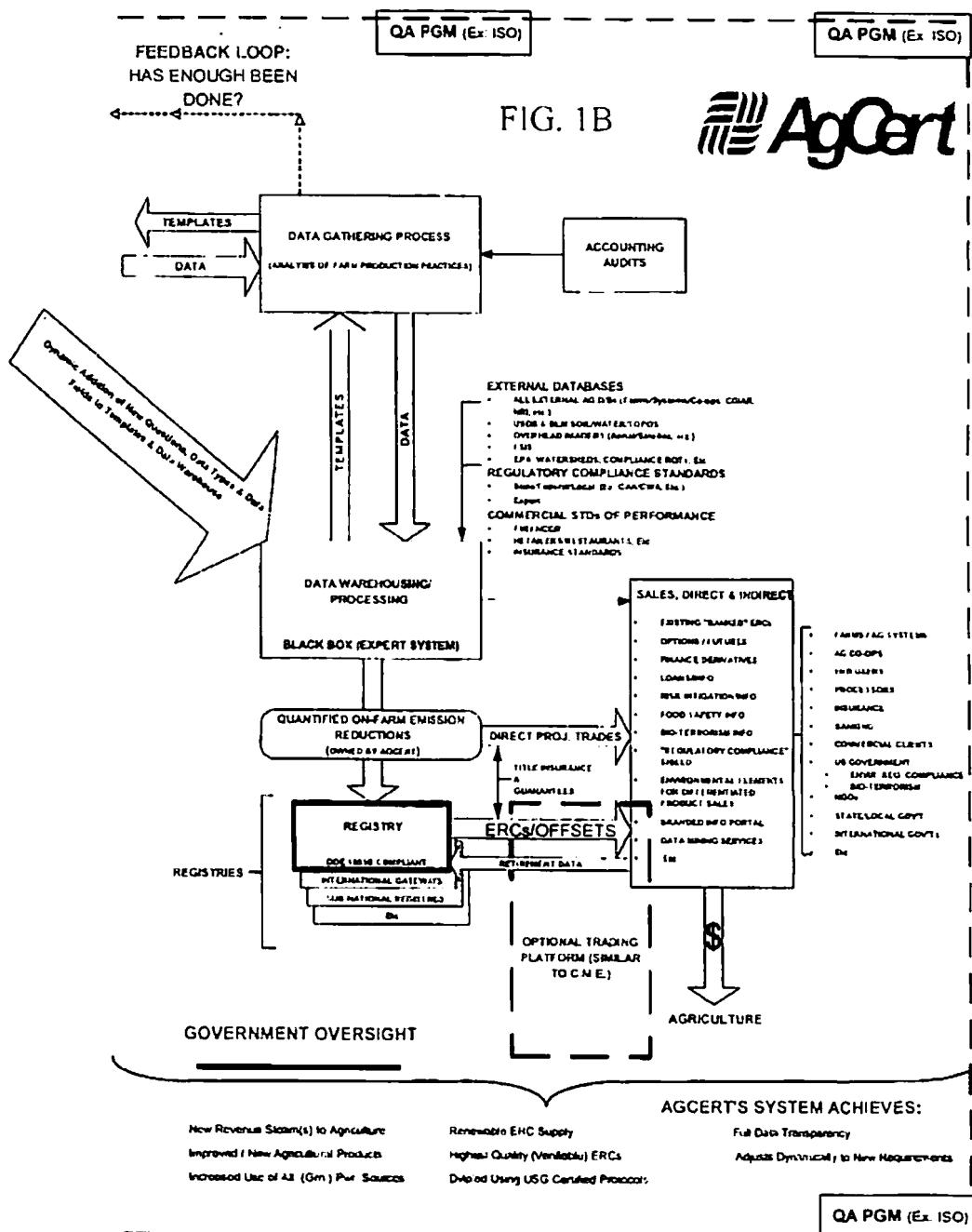


FIG. 2

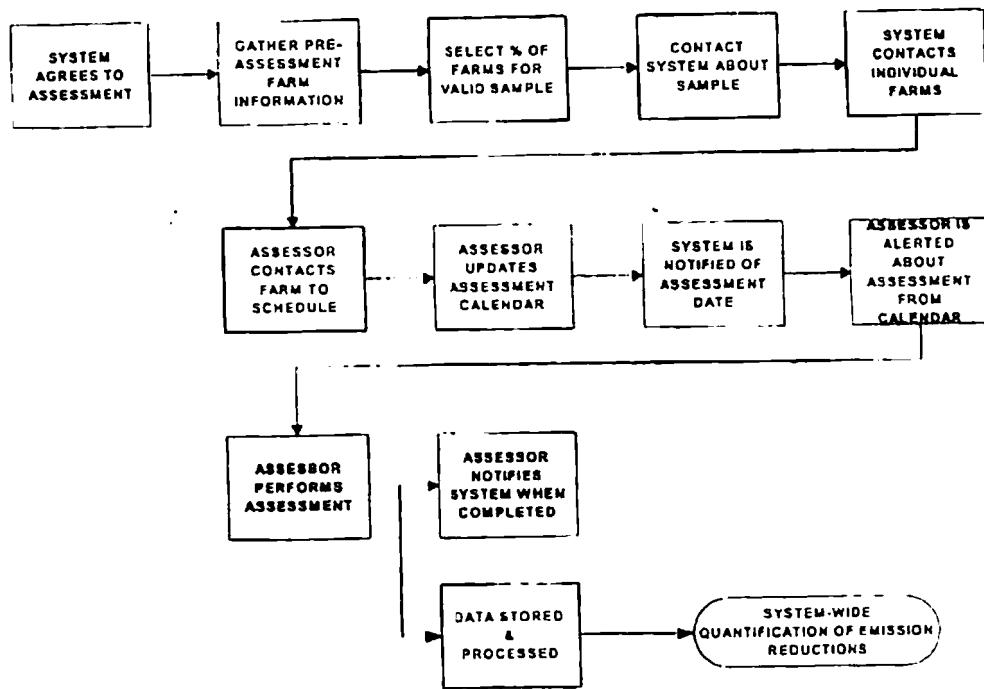


FIG. 3

